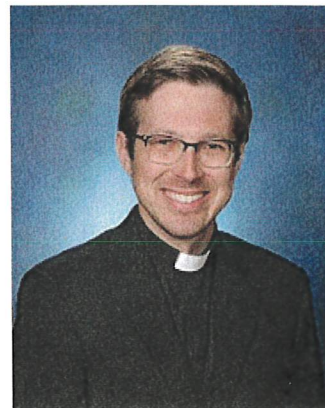


ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP DIVISION OF VOCATIONS

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past summer, as part of a delegation of pilgrims to World Youth Day in Lisbon, I was blessed to be able to spend some time with our seminarians from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. This was an amazing experience for us all, enabling us to entrust to our Blessed Mother our prayers for our personal vocational journeys. It was a beautiful experience of the universal Church. It was also inspiring for our seminarians to see the young people in our Church come alive. Additionally, for me in my role as Associate Director of Vocations for our Archdiocese, it presented an opportunity to pray, too, that our current resurgence in vocations, another blessing to be sure, will continue unabated.



Since Archbishop Lori appointed me Associated Director of Vocations in July of 2022, I have had the good fortune of walking with discerners, these good men who are contemplating applying to the Archdiocesan formation program. I cannot overstate the joy it brings me to support our priestly candidates, to observe their spiritual growth, enthusiasm, unwavering dedication, and profound commitment.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is blessed to currently have 55 seminarians. According to Reverend Steven Roth, Director of Vocations for our Archdiocese, the average yearly cost to form a seminarian is \$60,000 and to-date, this campaign has raised over \$400,000. The support of those who contribute sacrificial gifts to vocations in our Archdiocese plays a crucial role, too, in providing essential resources to our future priests. Gifts that help cover critical provisions such as accommodations, textbooks, and even health insurance allow these men to authentically discern God's will for their life and to freely enter and engage with the formation process. When you make a generous gift in support of Vocations, you are contributing to the future of our Church, a future that is filled with hope!

With a humble heart, I respectfully ask you to join me in accompanying our seminarians, as they take their next steps in drawing closer to the Living Christ, in one or two ways. Please pray for them, and consider sponsoring a Seminarian by way of a sacrificial gift. With your prayers and with your support, you can help ensure that our local Church has the future leaders it needs, men of spirituality and deep wells of compassion.

Please know how very grateful our seminarians and I are, for your consideration of these requests.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Matt Himes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Reverend Matthew T. Himes
Associate Director of Vocations